

### **Taking the Bull by the Horns** (Nehemiah 13)

**Proposition:** Every one of us are going to fight sin and temptation all of our days. So when it comes to sin we need to take the bull by the horns!

Notice the four sin problems that Nehemiah deals with here.

- I. **Taking the Compromise Problem By the Horns** (Vs. 1-9)
  - A. Compromises By Allowance (Vs. 1-3)
  - B. Compromises with Adversaries (Vs. 4-9)
- II. **Taking the Contribution Problem By the Horns** (Vs. 10-14)
  - A. Surveying the Lack of Contribution (Vs. 10, 5)
  - B. Speaking about the the Lack of Contribution (Vs. 11)
  - C. solving the Lack of Contribution (Vs. 12-13)
- III. **Taking the Consecration Problem By the Horns** (Vs. 15-22)
  - A. Recognizing Consecration Problems (Vs. 15-17)
  - B. Remembering Consecration Problems (Vs. 18)
  - C. Ridding Consecration Problems (Vs. 19-21)
  - D. Re-establishing Consecration Principals (Vs. 22)
- IV. **Taking the Contamination Problem By the Horns** (Vs. 23-31)
  - A. The Concern of Contamination (Vs. 23-24)
  - B. The Contempt of Contamination (Vs. 25)
  - C. The Case of Contamination (Vs. 26-27)
  - B. The Cleansing of Contamination (Vs. 28-31)

## Taking the Bull By the Horns Nehemiah 13

There are many metaphorical phrases that we use in every day language.

Some such as Keep your nose to the Grindstone, the Bull stops here as give me a break. The most fitting express

that would sum up what's going on in Nehemiah Ch 13 is "Taking the Bull by the Horns." This phrase indicate

that a problem needs to be met head on. Not beating around the bush or trying to sneak up on it but full front

face to face combat. What is Nehemiah combating here? Sin. It would have been nice to end act ch 12 with a glorious meeting

but "The song writer had it right from the word

## Taking the Compromise Problem by the Horns

As time progresses beyond initial commitments, we are all susceptible to compromise, making allowances and exceptions <sup>about sin</sup> rationalization

## A. Compromises by Allowances - Vs 1-3

Earlier in the book of Nehemiah Ch 10: 28-29, they had already separated themselves from the people of the Land

but over time these outsiders and once again made an avenue back in.

Note it was the reading of God's word that brought to light this sin. The unchanging word of God brings to light where we



allowances for sin in speech, character, music,

## B. Compromises with Adversaries (4-9)

If it had been 12 years ago, there would have been an alarm sounded and swords drawn at the sight of Tobiah entering Jerusalem. But now this enemy has taken up residence in the court of God's house. The enemy living in comfort. Even when he was young, still today, if someone hears a bell sound the alarm. Their drink is their cursing. Has the devil <sup>up a little flag</sup> over his nest?

## II. Taking the Contribution Problem by the Horns

Living! There is a sin that you don't need to tip-toe around, face it head on.

A. Surveying the Lack of Contribution <sup>Vs 10</sup>  
(Vs 10). I perceived. Nehemiah didn't turn a blind eye to this area. "I heard one friend say you don't get what you expect, get what you inspect. And what did he find? Guess who was living off of what should have been given to the work of God? Vs 15. The Enemy. Boy, that's a message."

## B. Speaking about the Lack of Contribution <sup>Vs 11</sup>

Nehemiah just came right out and said there's a problem here. Oh yeah, came right out and said that God's house is being forsaken. What's going on isn't right. All he has got, I'm not trying to make a fortune here. But there are things we can

## C. Solving the Lack of Contribution

- 1) ..."Prone to wander Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love!"

After 12 years of labor in the city of Jerusalem, Nehemiah was called back to Babylon by King Artaxerxes. Some time later, Nehemiah made his way back to Jerusalem, only to find the sin that had infiltrated the city once again. These were some of the problems that had been faced and defeated before, and now their back again. Every one of us are going to fight sin and temptation all of our days. So when it comes to sin we need to take the bull by the horns! Notice the four sin problems that Nehemiah deals with here.

- 2) ...a message there for all of us. The devil is living off of God's money. Most of us are in debt up to our eye balls because we spend money we don't have to by things we don't need to impress people we don't like. Is the world the flesh and the devil living off of God's money at your house.
- 3) ...there are things we want to do, places we want to go, goals that we want to achieve that will not be accomplished because people will not take the bull by the horns when it comes to giving.

- 1) ...principal says, as a man purpose in his hear so let him give. My contention is that this is a higher standard than Old Testament giving. Why would one give less under Grace than under. The amount given under Law would be no less than a tenth of your gross personal income.
- 2) ...his laws completely and wholly. But now, the most basic of consecration sings, the sabbath is being set aside.
- 3) ...says something about it you'll straighten up. God can to a whole lot more to you than your pastor can. But that's why God has given the gift of pastors to the church. To say what needs to be said. To have eyes that watch and listen to guard the flock of God!
- 4) ...neglect a life of consecration and there will be chastening to follow. I see it time and time again.
- 5) Wrote: They were people who could hear a bargain from a mile away, but who were tone deaf to God's commands concerning the Sabbath'



I have heard that the Catholic Church sends parisheners a bill in the mail. The mormons came to your home and personally verify that each member is tithing. Nehemiah called a group huddle and said this is what you are to give. Set up treasures. My Principal says ①

III. Taking the Consecration Problem by the Horn in chapter 9. These people were adamant about a written covenant, write it seal it. They were given eyes to God and his laws. Capitell

A. Recognizing Consecration Problems - He saw it. There was a man God looking. What is hilarious is that we will deviate from the ways of God while God is looking on. Get when someone else says something you'll ③

B. Remembering Consecration Problems - Don't you realize that our fathers were placed in exile over the same problems. Can't you learn your lesson. I haven't been a pastor long, but I have seen this over and over neglect ④

C. Redding Consecration Problems - What was deterring a life of consecration was the buying and selling of goods. I author ⑤ Nehemiah said to the enticing merchants get out of here or I'll put you away. <sup>in town</sup> New Shool

D. Re-establishing Consecration Principles - This consecration problem was so bad that the Levites had to be told to keep sabbath. It is a shame today out of a spirit of



7. The Levites were to set more examples for all the people.

#### IV. Taking the Contamination Problem by the Horn

The hull of sin finds its way in to places of choices, money, our living and finally marriages. The people were to remain pure.

A. The Concern of Contamination - I saw that pesky man of God sticking his nose in our relationships. They were commanded not to immerse money. Bread down in Language. Could not hear from God. To be unequally yoked is to be pulled down.

B. The Contempt of Contamination (25) - When it got ugly down at the church house, I think I've got a new favorite verse. I don't know how many times I've wanted to heal some sin in you, you are contaminating your life and my church.

C. The Cause of Contamination - The case he is presenting is the case of Solomon. As Great a King as he was took heathen wives and was turned away from God. He goes to go down the same vain path as Solomon. Unequal.

D. The Cleansing from Contamination - Nehemiah found the culperate and ran him out of town. Then did house cleaning. It is time to clean house of contamination. Sin that is contamination in our lives.

V. Closing. Last year we went to the rodeo in Ringgold and they were calf roping. The cowboy had the calf on the run then grabbed it by the head and took it down. Put him on the

- 1) ...your life and our church! I've wanted to get some folks in a head lock and make them swear that they will not intermingle with this world. Nehemiah cursed them! Remember Ch 10:29 they entered into a curse. We're going to obey God and God curse us if we don't. Here they are breaking that vow and Nehemiah is cursing them! Get serious about sin! Billy Sunday said: Listen, I'm against sin. I'll kick it as long as I've got a foot, I'll fight it as long as I've got a fist, I'll butt it as long as I've got a head, and I'll bite it as long as I've got a tooth. And when I'm old, fistless, footless and toothless, I'll gum it till I go home to glory and it goes home to perdition."
- 2) ...unequally yoked relationships will more than likely pull you down instead of you pulling them up.